

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: 1976-77 GS/YF EXCHANGE

REF: MOSCOW 11851

1. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION IREX NOW AGREES THAT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET NOMINEE SHALOBASOV HAS INDEED CREATED AN IMBALANCE OF ONE IN OUR FAVOR. IREX IS CONSIDERING WHETHER TO OFFER TO ACCEPT ONE ADDITIONAL SOVIET NOMINEE (PERHAPS KAZANSKIY) TO BALANCE THE TOTALS, OR WHETHER TO MAINTAIN THAT THE IMBALANCE HAS BEEN CREATED BY A SOVIET ACTION AND TO CLAIM THAT IREX THEREFORE HAS NO OBLIGATION TO CORRECT IT. IREX TOLD US THAT IT HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO OFFER NO FURTHER PLACEMENTS BEYOND KAZANSKIY TO CORRECT ANY IMBALANCE EVEN IF ADDITIONAL SOVIETS SHOULD WITHDRAW (FOR EXAMPLE KULIKOV, WHOSE STATUS SEEMS UNCERTAIN). BOTH DEPT AND IREX ARE AWARE THAT SOVIETS COULD TRY TO WITHDRAW SOME OF THEIR NOMINEES ALREADY ACCEPTED BUT IN WHOM THEY HAVE NO PRIORITY INTEREST IN AN EFFORT TO ASSURE PLACEMENT

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OF NOMINEES THUS FAR REJECTED BUT IN WHOM THEY DO HAVE A

PRIORITY INTEREST (I.E., THOSE LISTED IN PARA 1 REFTEL).

2. IREX IS STILL CONSIDERING, HOWEVER, WHETHER TO OFFER TO ACCEPT AN ADDITIONAL ONE OR TWO SOVIET NOMINEES IN RETURN FOR SOVIET PLACEMENT OF WHEELER OR PLESZCZYNSKI. (IREX APPARENTLY HOPES THIS QUID PRO QUO COULD BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE QUESTION OF OVERALL NUMERICAL BALANCE--AN UNLIKELY OUTCOME IN OUR VIEW).

3. IREX DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK. A DECISION TO PLACE ADDITIONAL SOVIET NOMINEES WOULD INVOLVE A LAST MINUTE SCRAMBLE FOR PLACEMENTS HERE WHICH IREX IS APPARENTLY NOT ANXIOUS TO UNDERTAKE. WILL ADVISE.

4. COPIES OF IREX'S LATEST LISTINGS OF SOVIET AND U.S. NOMINEE PLACEMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED EMBASSY. KISSINGER

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